

Message Text

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63

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 H-02

SSC-01 /057 W

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R 101920Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 714

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 3215

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, CA

SUBJ: ALBERT E. (ED) RITCHIE NEW AMBASSADOR TO IRELAND

1. FOLLOWING AMBASSADORIAL APPOINTMENT ANNOUNCED BY
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. APPOINTMENT TO TAKE
EFFECT DURING SUMMER MONTHS.

2. ALBERT EDGAR RITCHIE, 59, ORIGINALLY FROM ANDOVER,
NEW BRUNSWICK, TO BE AMBASSADOR TO IRELAND.

3. RITCHIE (B.A., MOUNT ALLISON UNIVERSITY; RHODES
SCHOLAR AND B.A., OXFORD UNIVERSITY; LL.D., FROM MOUNT
ALLISON AND ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITIES) HAS SERVED ABROAD WITH
THE DEPARTMENT IN LONDON (1948-52) AND WASHINGTON (1957-59).
HE WAS NAMED ASSISTANT UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS IN 1959, AND BECAME DEPUTY UNDER-SECRETARY IN 1964.
IN 1966 HE WAS APPOINTED AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES,
AND RETURNED IN 1970 TO BECOME UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, WHICH HE REMAINED UNTIL LATE 1974.

4. HE WAS THE RECIPIENT, IN 1973 OF THE OUTSTANDING
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF CANADA,
AND WAS MADE A COMPANION OF THE ORDER OF CANADA IN 1975.

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5. WHEN SERVING AS UNDER-SECRETARY AT EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,

RITCHIE WAS CONSIDERED ONE OF CANADA'S MOST DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVANTS. HE WAS KNOWN WELL AND FAVORABLY BY MANY U.S. OFFICIALS AND HAD THE REPUTATION OF A THOUGHTFUL AND HIGHLY CAPABLE PERSON WITH GREAT SKILL IN TRANSLATING POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS INTO ACTION. HE RAN A TAUT SHIP AT EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. WHILE COMMITTED TO CANADIAN SOVEREIGNTY, HE RECOGNIZED THE VALUE OF CLOSE AND CORDIAL RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. IN LATE 1974, RITCHIE SUFFERED A DEVASTATING COMBINATION OF HEART ATTACK AND STROKE AND HE HAS BEEN LARGELY INCAPACITATED UNTIL RECENTLY. A CONTACT IN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS HAS TOLD AN EMBOFF THAT RITCHIE IS "OK" MENTALLY BUT STILL "A LITTLE SLOW" PHYSICALLY. THE CONTACT ADDED THE OPINION THAT RITCHIE WOULD NOT HAVE TAKEN ON THE NEW AMBASSADORIAL POSITION IF HE DID NOT FEEL THAT HE WAS READY FOR IT. RITCHIE IS MARRIED AND HAS FOUR CHILDREN.
LEARY

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NNN

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